

Fall 8-15-2007

## ENG 5010-001: Fictions of the American 1920s

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Professor Fern Kory

English 5010 (001): Fall 2007

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& by appointment

### Fictions of the American 1920s

*Mondays 3:30 – 6:00 in Coleman Hall 3159*

Our primary goal is to familiarize ourselves with fiction written by Americans during the 1920s so we have a basis for understanding and assessing the validity of various paradigms that have been used to describe the era (“Harlem Renaissance,” “Jazz Age”), the fiction (“modernist”), the writers and their characters (“lost generation”).

#### Fiction

- 1920 *The Age of Innocence* Edith Wharton
- This Side of Paradise* F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 1922 *Babbitt* Sinclair Lewis
- 1923 *A Lost Lady* Willa Cather
- 1925 *Manhattan Transfer* John Dos Passos
- short fiction in *The New Negro* ed. Alain Locke
- Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* Anita Loos
- 1926 *The Sun Also Rises* Ernest Hemingway
- short fiction from *Fire!!* in *The Harlem Renaissance Reader*
- N\*\*\*\*\* *Heaven* Carl Van Vechten (\*extra credit reading)
- 1928 *Quicksand* Nella Larsen
- Home to Harlem* Claude McKay
- 1929 *Plum Bun* Jessie Fauset (not on syllabus)

#### Secondary Resource

*Harlem Renaissance* Steven Watson

### Tentative Schedule of Readings & Assignments

- Week 1**      **August 20**  
*Introductions*
- Week 2**      **August 27**  
*Age of Innocence*
- Week 3**      **September 3: Labor Day ~ No Class Meeting**  
*Work on Magazine Report*
- Week 4**      **September 10**  
*This Side of Paradise*  
1920 magazine report:  
1921 magazine report:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Week 5      | <b>September 17</b><br><i>Babbitt</i><br>1922 magazine report<br>1923 magazine report   |
| Week 6      | <b>September 24</b><br><i>A Lost Lady</i><br>1923 magazine report:<br>1924 magazine report:   |
| Week 7      | <b>October 1</b> <i>WebCT Posts to date will receive a score</i><br><br><i>Manhattan Transfer</i><br>1925 magazine report:  |
| Week 8      | <b>October 8</b><br><i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i><br>1925 magazine report:<br>1925 magazine report:   |
| Week 9      | <b>October 15</b><br>Fiction from <i>The New Negro</i><br>1925 magazine report:   |
| Week 10     | <b>October 22</b><br>Fiction from <i>Fire!!</i> in <i>The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader</i><br>1926 magazine report:   |
| Week 11     | <b>October 29</b><br><i>The Sun Also Rises</i><br>1926 magazine report:<br>1927 magazine report:  |
| Week 12     | <b>November 5</b> <i>WebCT Posts to date will receive a score</i><br><i>Quicksand</i><br><i>N***** Heaven</i> (optional, extra credit reading)<br>1928 magazine report: |
| Week 13     | <b>November 12</b><br><i>Reports on Self-Selected Novel</i><br><br><b>—Thanksgiving Break—</b>  |
| Week 14     | <b>November 26</b><br><i>Continue Reports on Self-Selected Novel</i>  |
| Week 15     | <b>December 3</b><br><i>Continue Reports on Self-Selected Novel</i>   |
| Finals Week | <b>December 12 (Wednesday 2:45-4:45 pm)</b><br><i>Research Projects DUE</i>   |

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES

- 1.) You must complete all major assignments to pass this course. Late work will be penalized unless we come to an understanding *before* the due date. If you are experiencing temporary difficulties, contact me as soon as possible.
- 2.) Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's words or ideas and using them in your own work (written, oral, visual) without giving credit to their author. This is a serious academic offense and could result in a failing grade for the plagiarized assignment or this course, and could also incur other university penalties. At the very least, any work with problematic citations will have to be revised or amended before it can receive a grade.
- 3.) Formal writing assignments should conform to MLA style and documentation.
- 4.) Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) so we can work out appropriate accommodations.
- 5.) Attendance Counts. If you have more than one unexcused absence, you will not receive any points for participation.

## GRADES

Your final course grade will be based on the percentage you earn of the points available. I will adjust these point values if we add, cancel or revise any assignments.

**Web CT Posts (30 points: 15 at mid-term and 15 after week 12)** ~ Each week, you will post on WebCT a (minimum) 250-word informal analytic response to the reading. This post should be focused on a question or issue of interest, and developed through analysis of specific passages in the text. You do not need to come to a firm conclusion, but can instead open up possibilities for discussion and begin to forge connections between texts.

**Critical Perspectives (10 points)** ~ A presentation and handout (2 page max) that introduces us to two interesting critical perspectives on the text under discussion

**Magazine Presentation & Handout (15 points)** ~ A presentation and handout (2 page max) that provides us with information and observations about from a 1920s magazine

**Book Report (10 points)** ~ A presentation and handout (2 page max) that introduces us to your self-selected novel and allows us to see what it adds to our discussion of this era

**Final Project (25 points)** ~ A research project TBD related to your interests and goals

**Participation (5 points)** ~ Attentive, respectful, informed questions and comments

**The bottom line . . . grades are not curved.** 91% (91+ points) = **A**

81 - 90% (81-90) = **B**

71 - 80% (71-80) = **C**

61 - 70% (61-70) = **D**